

CLAIMS

1. A method for setting up a connection via an IP-oriented network, the method comprising the steps of:

5 connecting a device, from which the connection originates, to a local computer network;

connecting the local computer network via a router device to a communications network;

connecting the communications network via a plurality of conversion devices to the IP-oriented network;

10 selecting one of the conversion devices, via a selection unit implemented in the router device, using information transferred by the device; and

setting up a communications link to the select conversion device via the communications network.

15 2. A method for setting up a connection via an IP-oriented network as claimed in claim 1, wherein the selected conversion device is a default conversion device, a communications link being set up via the default conversion device in cases where no information to the contrary is received in the selection unit.

20 3. A method for setting up a connection via an IP-oriented network as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising the steps of:

initializing a connection setup by a first application running on the device; and

transferring the information originating from a second application running on any given device to the router device.

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4. A method for setting up a connection via an IP-oriented network as claimed in claim 3, wherein the information is transferred via a separate connection via the local computer network.

30 5. A method for setting up a connection via an IP-oriented network as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising the step of:

transmitting automatically, via the selection unit, a request message to the device which is transmitting the information in cases where no information is received in the selection unit.

5 6. A method for setting up a connection via an IP-oriented network as claimed in claim 2, wherein the default conversion device is configured by the selection unit as a function of time of day.

7. A method for setting up a connection via an IP-oriented network as
10 claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising the step of:

automatically clearing down an existing communications connection between the device and a different conversion device at an end of a definable time period in cases where a new communications connection is set up between the device and a conversion device.

15 8. A method for setting up a connection via an IP-oriented network as claimed in claim 7, wherein the existing communications connection is not cleared down in cases where a different device connected to the local computer network continues to access this communications connection.

20 9. A method for setting up a connection via an IP-oriented network as claimed in claim 1, the method further comprising the steps of:

designing the selection unit according to a Domain Name Service proxy, wherein a Domain Name Service enquiry transferred from the device to the selection
25 unit is checked to ascertain whether an Internet name corresponding to the Domain Name Service enquiry and identifying a conversion device is stored in the selection unit; and

forwarding the Domain Name Service enquiry, if the internet name is stored in the selection unit, via the communications network to the conversion device identified
30 by the Internet name.

10. A method for setting up a connection via an IP-oriented network as claimed in claim 2, wherein the transferred information is an IP address and, when an IP address specifically set up in the selection unit and identifying a conversion device is transferred, the corresponding conversion device is re-configured as the default
5 conversion device.

11. A method for setting up a connection via an IP-oriented network as claimed in claim 10, the method further comprising the step of:
routing IP addresses subsequently transferred from a device to the router device
10 via the currently set up default conversion device until a new IP address specifically set up in the selection unit is transferred to the router device.

12. A router device for setting up a communications connection via an IP-oriented network, originating from a device connected to a local computer network, the
15 local computer network being connected via the router device to a communications network which, in turn, is connected via a plurality of conversion devices to the IP-oriented network, the router device comprising:

a selection unit for selecting one of the conversion devices with reference to information transferred by any given device; and
20 a control unit for subsequent set-up of a communications connection via the communications network to the selected conversion device.

13. A router device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the selection unit is a server, a separate socket connection being provided between the device and the
25 selection unit for transferring the information.

14. A router device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the selection unit is designed according a Domain Name Service proxy.

30 15. A router device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the selection unit is an IP address filter.